

2018 Current Fiscal Year Report: Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans

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1. Department or Agency

Department of Veterans Affairs

2. Fiscal Year

2018

3. Committee or Subcommittee

Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans

3b. GSA Committee No.

1983

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?

No

5. Current Charter

04/09/2018

6. Expected Renewal Date

04/09/2020

7. Expected Term Date

8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?

No

8b. Specific Termination Authority

Public Law 106-117 , Sec. 803

8c. Actual Term Date

9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year

Continue

10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

Not Applicable

10b. Legislation Pending?

Not Applicable

11. Establishment Authority Statutory (Congress Created)

12. Specific Establishment Authority

38 U.S.C. 544

13. Effective Date

11/02/1994

14. Committee Type

Continuing

14c. Presidential?

No

15. Description of Committee National Policy Issue Advisory Board

16a. Total Number of Reports 1

16b. Report Date Report Title

09/01/2018 Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans Annual Report

Number of Committee Reports Listed: 1

17a. Open 1 17b. Closed 0 17c. Partially Closed 1 Other Activities 0 17d. Total 2

Meetings and Dates

Purpose	Start	End
On December 12, the Committee received briefings and updates from the Center for Minority Veterans, National Cemetery Administration, Suicide Prevention, Veterans Experience Office, and Veterans Benefits Administration. On December 13, the Committee received briefings and updates from the Board of Veterans Appeals, Office of Accountability & Whistleblower Protection, Choice Program/Community Care, Mental Health, Veterans Health Administration, Office of Telehealth, Office of Policy & Planning, Million Veteran Program, and Women's Health Services. On December 14, the Committee received briefings and updates from the Office of Diversity & Inclusion, on Leadership Development Programs, Ex-Officios Update and held a Leadership Exit Briefing with VBA, VHA and NCA. The Committee allotted time for public comments from 10:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. After the Leadership Exit Briefing, the Committee worked on their annual report.	12/12/2017	12/14/2017

On April 17, the Committee met in open session with key staff at the VA St Louis Health Care System - John Cochran Division to discuss services, benefits, delivery challenges, and successes. The Committee convened in a closed session to tour the VA Health Care System. The Committee reconvened in a closed session at the Charles F. Prevedel Federal Building to receive briefings from the Veterans Benefits Administration staff and toured the facility. On April 18, the Committee convened in open session at the Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery followed by a tour of the cemetery. The Committee met with key staff to discuss services, benefits, delivery challenges and successes and the Committee held a Veterans Town Hall meeting at the Harris-Stowe State University (HSSU) William L. Clay Sr. Early Childhood Center in the Professional Development Auditorium-Room 204. On April 19, the Committee convened in open session at the VA St Louis Health Care System – John Cochran Division to conduct an exit briefing with leadership from the VA St Louis Health Care System, St Louis Regional Benefit Office, and Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery. In the afternoon from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., the Committee worked on drafting recommendations for the annual report to the Secretary. 04/17/2018 - 04/19/2018

Number of Committee Meetings Listed: 2

	Current FY	Next FY
18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members	\$13,500.00	\$18,000.00
18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff	\$248,565.00	\$251,051.00
18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members	\$15,753.00	\$26,000.00
18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff	\$2,432.00	\$4,000.00
18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)	\$14,662.00	\$15,000.00
18d. Total	\$294,912.00	\$314,051.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	1.70	1.70

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

The Committee accomplishes its purpose through briefings from the Secretary and Senior Leaders, annual site visits at VA facilities with large minority Veteran populations and town hall meetings in local communities. The results and findings from these combined activities translate into recommendations that advise the Secretary on issues, concerns and gaps in services that directly impact minority Veterans. The Committee's recommendations align with and support three VA priorities: improving the Veterans experience, improving the employee's experience and increasing access to health care. Additionally, they also contribute to addressing key VA priorities, namely choice for Veterans and suicide prevention. In conducting site visits to VA facilities with large percentages of minority Veterans, the committee is able to identify potential barriers that minority Veterans may encounter when accessing health care services and also recognize service gaps. The Committee's recommendations to the department ensure that important needs and potential gaps in service are considered when exploring options related to the Choice Program. During briefings with senior leaders from VHA, VBA, NCA and program offices, the committee members gain insights on VA's progress in addressing prior recommendations made by the committee, as well as, obtain information

regarding initiatives that are relevant to serving the needs of minority Veterans. The town hall meetings provide a forum for committee members to listen to the voice of minority Veterans and to understand their perspective of what their experiences are when they utilize various VA services and benefit programs, thus assisting committee members in determining appropriate recommendations that address access to care issues which is a priority of the Secretary. These recommendations are submitted in the annual advisory committee report to the Secretary and Congress. The Committee monitors VA's progress in implementing plans of actions submitted by VHA, VBA and NCA to address the service gaps and identified needs of minority Veterans, including VA employees who are also Veterans. Therefore, the purpose and ultimate results of the combined activities of the committee translate into substantive recommendations that impact minority Veterans and support three key VA priorities and priorities of the Secretary.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

The Committee is balanced ethnically and geographically to include representation of all five minority groups mandated by law: African American, Hispanic/Latino, Asian American, Pacific Islander, and Native American, including American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian. Most Committee members are members of major VSO's and all branches of the Armed Services (enlisted/officer) are represented.

20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?

The Committee conducts at least two meetings per fiscal year. The standard operations entail conducting one local meeting in Washington, D.C. to receive updates from VA Senior Leaders, and one site visit to a VA facility with a high concentration of minority Veterans. Veteran town hall meetings are conducted during site visits to encourage direct contact with minority Veterans to determine their level of satisfaction with VA benefits and services. In FY 2018, the Committee held two meetings: December 2017 (Washington, DC) and April 2018 (St. Louis, MO).

20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?

This Committee provides a unique representation of a broad cross section of the Veteran population as a whole. The members bring varied and distinguished background and experience working with Veterans and are well connected to minority Veteran serving organizations. Some of this experience is in the fields of medicine, law, labor, community organizations, Veterans organizations and business. All of these individuals believe there is a need for the advice and counsel they provide to the Secretary. The Committee provides an impartial and independent review of VA programs. Department of Defense demographics indicate a continually increasing minority population make up of our armed

forces. Therefore, realigning policies and programs to meet the changing demographics in our Veteran population is crucial to ensuring the Department provides the best care and services in a culturally competent manner.

20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?

The Committee meetings are open to the public. However, if the committee tours a VA facility, the meetings are closed to the public to protect patient privacy.

21. Remarks

Pursuant to Public Law 103-446, section 510, the Committee has been extended until September 30, 2018. Proposed legislation to extend the Committee to December 31, 2020 was submitted and is anticipated to be approved with the FY 2019 budget.

Designated Federal Officer

Dennis O. May Acting Director, Center for Minority Veterans

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Anderson, Nyamekye	08/03/2016	06/30/2018	Founder/Exec Dir Veterans & Community Global	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Billy, Phillip	10/02/2017	06/30/2019	Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Veterans	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Castillo, Melissa	08/31/2015	06/30/2018	Veterans Service Officer, Dallas, Texas	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Clancy, Carolyn	09/01/2017	09/01/2018	Executive in Charge, Veterans Health Administration	Ex Officio Member
McDonald, Robert	10/02/2017	06/30/2019	President Black Chamber of Commerce of Orange Co CA	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Miller, Ginger	08/31/2015	06/30/2018	Founder/CEO 2 NONPROFIT ORGs	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Murphy, Thomas	10/01/2016	09/30/2018	Acting Under Secretary for Benefits, Department of Veterans Affairs	Ex Officio Member
Rivas, Librado	09/05/2014	06/30/2018	State Commander AGIF	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Rosas, Raul	10/02/2017	06/30/2019	Exec. Dir. Non Profit Org. LIFT A VET	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Sangi, Ghulam	08/03/2016	06/30/2018	President/CEO Nonprofit Organization	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Townsend, Larry	08/03/2016	06/30/2018	Tribal VSO-Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Vaa-Igafo, Maria	08/03/2016	06/30/2018	Sua District County Chief, American Samoa	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Wong, Fang	08/03/2016	06/30/2018	Retired US Army Veteran	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Wrenn Gordon, Glenda	10/02/2017	06/30/2019	Part Time - VA Employee	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 14

Narrative Description

The Committee reviews reports completed by GAO, VA OIG, and other consultants that have completed assessments of VA programs, services or benefits in order to assess how well the Department manages Veterans programs. The Committee conducts site visits to VA facilities through out country, in areas where there are indications of problems or to benchmark best business practices. The Committee ensures that the needs of minority Veterans are being addressed in the Department.

What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Improvements to health or safety | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Trust in government | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Major policy changes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Advance in scientific research | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Effective grant making | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Improved service delivery | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Increased customer satisfaction | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Outcome Comments

NA

What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| None | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Unable to Determine | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Under \$100,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| \$100,000 - \$500,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| \$500,001 - \$1,000,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| \$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| \$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Over \$10,000,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Cost Savings Other | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Cost Savings Comments

NA

What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?

Number of Recommendations Comments

This is a total of recommendations for FY 2003 through FY 2018.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?

63%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

NA

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?

18%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

NA

Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

Agency Feedback Comments

Committee receive briefings by VA leadership on past years' recommendations.

Additionally, the annual report that the Committee provides to Congress is addressed by the Secretary in a transmittal letter which responds to all recommendations made by the Committee. These responses are shared with the Committee.

What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?

Checked if Applies

Reorganized Priorities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Reallocated resources	<input type="checkbox"/>
Issued new regulation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Approved grants or other payments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Action Comments

NA

Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?

No

Grant Review Comments

NA

How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?

Checked if Applies

Contact DFO



Online Agency Web Site



Online Committee Web Site



Online GSA FACA Web Site



Publications



Other

**Access Comments**

N/A